



Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

March 16, 2015

Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

The Governor's Office opposes House Bill 7001, as written. This bill seeks to amend 4-170b, which outlines agency reporting requirements to the Legislative Regulations Review Committee. While the Administration supports a broad review of the regulations-review process to ensure that there is opportunity for thorough review, and alleviate unnecessary burdens on state agencies that cost taxpayers money and hurt productivity, we oppose addressing the process piecemeal, or adding increased mandates on state agencies until such a comprehensive examination is done.

For example, CGS 4-189i, requires agencies to examine their existing regulations and issue a report to the Legislative Regulations Review Committee detailing necessary amendments or repeals every five years. While our office supports the concept of such a review, we believe the executive branch is in a better position to review its own regulations and initiate the standard regulation-making process to effectuate the necessary amendments or repeals. Furthermore, nothing currently exists in statute or the joint rules that prevents the General Assembly from repealing regulations it deems appropriate through the legislative process. This is an example of an unnecessary burden on agencies which, especially during tight budget times, should be concentrating on their core missions.

Last year, the Governor directed state agencies to undergo a comprehensive review of agency regulations in partnership with this committee and the General Assembly passed a bill repealing nearly 1,000 pages of outdated, unnecessary regulations. I would again, respectfully submit that the administration, whose executive branch agencies are responsible for writing regulations, is in a better position to lead such a process and achieve results.

Should the committee choose to move forward with this bill, the administration will continue to oppose it, as written, until the Governor's Office and the General Assembly have had an opportunity to develop a collaborative process to determine needed modifications to streamline and/or remove unnecessary burdens on agencies as they pertain to the Legislative Regulations Review process. We remain prepared to work with the leadership of both this Committee and the Regulations Review Committee to find mutually agreeable language.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Smith".

Christopher F. Smith
Deputy Director of Government Affairs